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Wallops Senior Manager Announces Retirement

Dr. Arnold Torres, senior manager at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., since January 1995, has announced that he will retire at the end of the year.

Torres said, "The end of this year will mark seven years since I became senior manager at Wallops and Director of Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects. Wallops has accomplished many wonderful things during this time, and I am proud to have been associated with the talented and dedicated men and women who made this possible."

"We will miss Arnold a great deal," said Goddard Director A. V. Diaz. "He's been a champion for the Wallops Flight Facility and a passionate advocate for the people there. His advice and counsel have been invaluable, and I know he will lend his personal knowledge and energy to finding a successor and ensure a smooth transition to a new director of Wallops."

During Torres' tenure, Wallops underwent many changes that increased its strategic value to NASA and the nation's aerospace industry. The facility began management of the Space Shuttle's small payloads Get-Away-Specials, Hitchhikers, and Space Experiment Modules; development of an Ultra-Long Duration Balloon for flights up to 100 days; commercialization of the NASA sound rocket operations; and development of the Wallops Partnership, which includes NASA, NOAA, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority.

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Torres said, "Over the next six months, as we finalize and begin the implementation of the Wallops Mission 2005, our strategic value to NASA and to the nation will become even stronger. I will leave here feeling good about the future of Wallops."

Torres received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of South Carolina. He joined NASA in 1978 as an atmospheric scientist. He has been recognized as having made pivotal contributions to science and in 1985 he was awarded the Goddard Space Flight Center Exceptional Achievement Award.

Torres and his wife reside in Pocomoke City, Md.

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